

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for printing by thermal diffusion transfer, comprising:

a first step of forming a latent image of a fluorescent dye by thermal diffusion transfer; and

a second step of providing a visible dye on the latent image by thermal diffusion transfer.

2. The printing method according to claim 1, which further comprises a step of forming a protective layer on the image after the second step.

3. A method for printing by thermal diffusion transfer, comprising:

a first step of forming an image of a visible dye by thermal diffusion transfer;

a second step of transferring a dye-receptive layer on the image; and

a third step of forming a latent image of a fluorescent dye on the dye-receptive layer by thermal diffusion transfer.

4. The printing method according to claim 3, which further comprises a step of forming a protective layer on the image after the second step.

5. The printing method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said visible dye is a dye selected from the group consisting of yellow dyes, magenta dyes, and cyan dyes.

6. An image formed object comprising: a latent image of a fluorescent dye formed by thermal diffusion transfer; and an image of a visible dye formed by thermal diffusion transfer on the latent image.

7. An image formed object comprising: an image of a

visible dye formed by thermal diffusion transfer; a dye-receptive layer provided on the visible dye image; and a latent image of a fluorescent dye formed by thermal diffusion transfer on the dye-receptive layer.

8. The image formed object according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said visible dye is a dye selected from the group consisting of yellow dyes, magenta dyes, and cyan dyes.

9. The image formed object according to any one of claims 6 to 8, which further comprises a protective layer provided on the image.

10. A security element comprising the image formed object according to any one of claims 6 to 9.

11. A fluorescent dye layer-visible dye layer integral thermal diffusion transfer sheet, comprising at least a fluorescent dye layer and visible dye layers that are arranged side-by-side on one side of a substrate sheet so that thermal diffusion transfer is carried out in the order of the fluorescent dye and the visible dyes.

12. A visible dye layer-dye-receptive layer forming layer-fluorescent dye layer integral thermal diffusion transfer sheet, comprising at least visible dye layers, a dye-receptive layer forming layer, and a fluorescent dye layer that are arranged side-by-side on one side of a substrate sheet so that thermal diffusion transfer is carried out in the order of the visible dyes, the dye-receptive layer, and the fluorescent dye.